Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of Lands,
Parks and Housing

File: 1-3-1-231

JEWEL LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

JULY, 1980

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing
PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

To: G. Trachuk
Director
Planning and Design Branch

Date: Oct. 29, 1980
File: 1-3-1-231-27

Re: Jewel Lake (Proposed) Park - Master Plan

The attached Master Plan has been reviewed and is hereby recommended for your approval.

BP/mam

Recommended G.F. Macnab 5-11-80. Date

Approved G. Trachuk Nov 6/80 Date

105-04526/

Province of British Columbia — Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. C.F. Macnab, Manager
Planning Section
Planning and Design Branch
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division
#205, 633 Courtney Street
VICTORIA, B.C.

File: 1-3-1-231

Date: July 29, 1980

KOOTENAY REGION

Re: Jewel Lake Provincial Park - Master Plan

The attached Master Plan for Jewel Lake Provincial Park is submitted for your review and approval.

M.R. Hanry

M.R. Hanry
Regional Master Planner
Kootenay Region

attach.

MRH/gh

APPROVED: M.E. Goddard

M.E. Goddard, Regional Director

R.A. Russell

R.A. Russell, District Manager

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. Setting

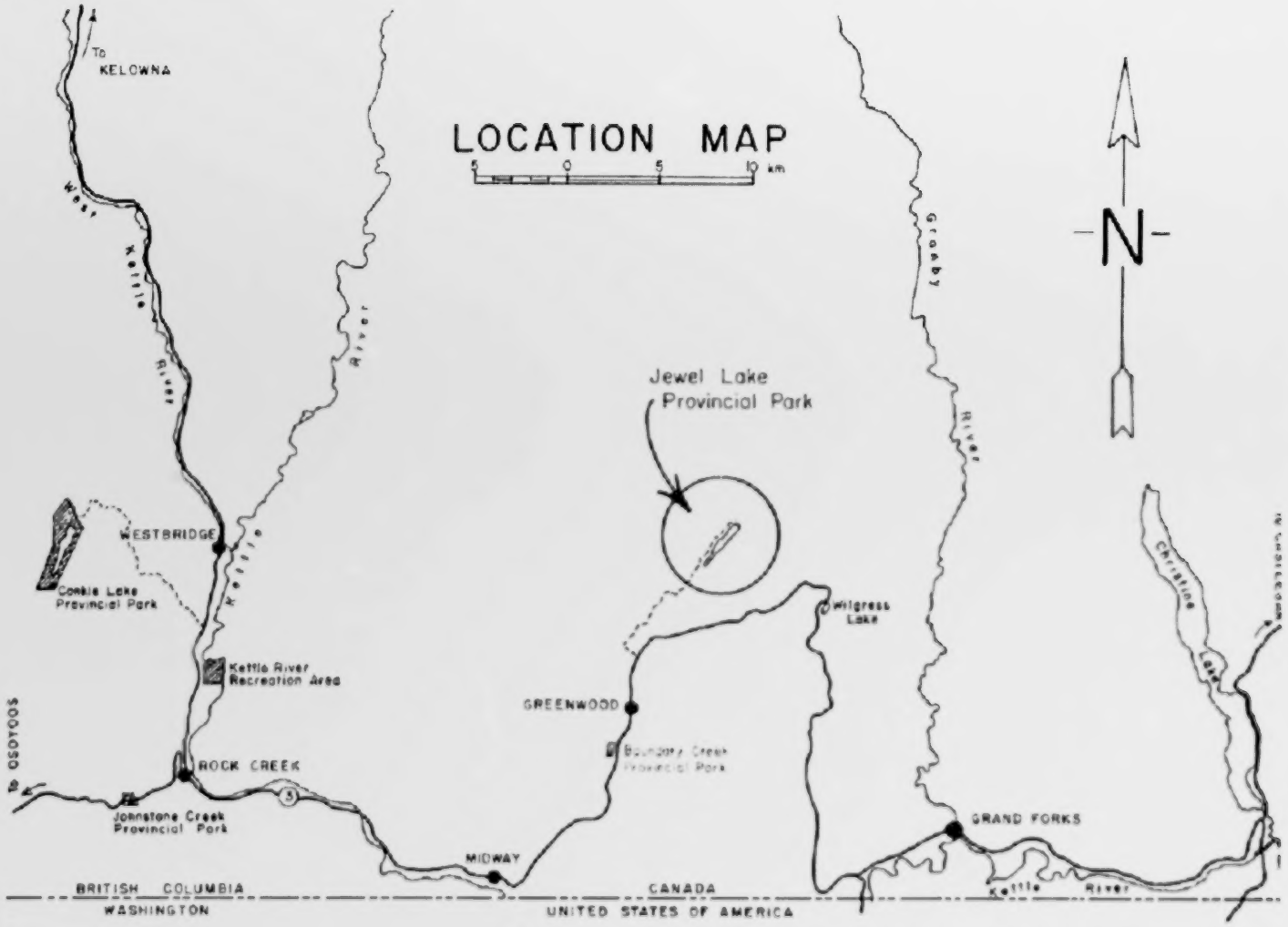
Jewel Lake is located 10 kilometres north of Greenwood in the Kettle River-Boundary Creek area of the West Kootenays. It is the largest and one of only two lakes close to Highway 3 between Osoyoos and Christina Lake.

Bounded by forested mountains and at an elevation of 1,066 metres, the lake and its environs have the natural attributes to create anattractive park oriented to both easy access destination and local day use. The large recreational reserve at the north end of the lake has been used for years primarily by campers and fishermen. The southwest shore and south end of the lake are privately developed for cottaging and recreational use. Jewel Lake Resorts Ltd. at the south end offers camping and day use facilities along with boat and cottage rentals. A public boat launch is also situated at the south end of the lake.

2. Regional Perspective

Jewel Lake is an important feature of the Greenwood-Midway area, as it represents the only suitable local lake for provision of opportunities for public swimming and beach oriented activities.

It also offers excellent potential for an easy access destinationoriented park relating to a forested lake environment. Conkle Lake, located northwest of Rock Creek, provides a similar experience but access is comparatively more difficult. Wilgress Lake is the only other small lake along the same section of Highway 3, however, the potential for intensive use at this lake is relatively limited. As the major lake in this western portion of the Kootenay Region, Christina Lake is highly developed and intensively used for swimming, power boating and water skiing.


LOCATION MAP
5 0 5 10 km
N
To KELOWNA
Kettle River
Kettle River
Granby River
Jewel Lake Provincial Park
WESTBRIDGE
Conkle Lake Provincial Park
Kettle River Recreation Area
GREENWOOD
Wilgress Lake
Christina Lake
OSOYOOS
ROCK CREEK
Johnstone Creek Provincial Park
MIDWAY
GRAND FORKS
BRITISH COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
CANADA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3. Present Development and Use

The recreational reserve at the north end of Jewel Lake has some old Forest Service toilets, tables and rock fire circles. Present use tends to be heavy on weekends during the peak fishing periods of May to June and the early fall months. Litter, impacted soil and damaged vegetation are evidence of the heavy use which is presumed to be primarily originating from local and regional populations, and to a lesser extent from other regions of the province, particularly the Okanagan. Recreational activities are informal and include camping, fishing, boating, hiking and nature studies.

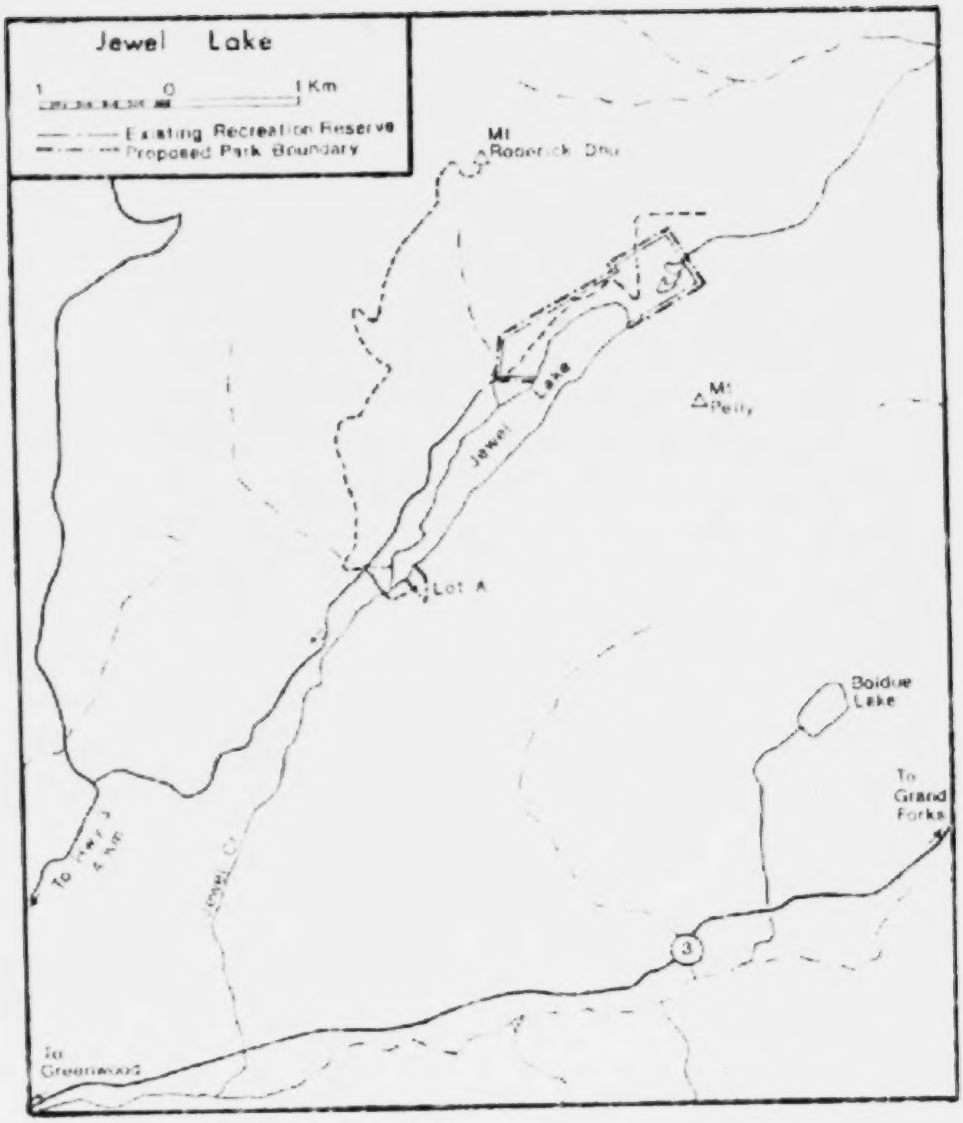
The prominent sand mounds and beach at the southeast corner of the lake have in the past served as a popular local swimming and day use area. The site has been closed off to the public and is now the subject of delayed land exchange negotiations between the owner and the Crown. There are no other suitable swimming beaches on the lake.

4. Land Status and Access

The recreational reserve takes in the north end of the lake and most of the northern half of the west shore. The initial reserve, established in 1949, was later amended in 1971 to contain 49 hectares.

Proposed Park boundaries will take in the existing reserve. The primary resource agencies have given approval to the Park proposal. Formal letters of approval have been received from the Forest Service, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Highways. Forest and mining interests, however, require conditional guarantees for access through the Park for resource hauling purposes. It is felt that such access could be accommodated through Park Use Permit with restrictions imposed for off-season hauling and/or limitations on hours of hauling. Complications with private land, mineral claims and forest development plans obviate any options to expand Park boundary proposals outside of the existing reserve. Instead, inter-agency co-ordination through the Regional Resource Management Committee will be depended upon for protection of visual and recreational qualities around the lake.

STATUS


Jewel Lake
1 0 1 Km
Existing Recreation Reserve
Proposed Park Boundary
Mt Roderick Dhu
Mt Perry
Jewel Lake
Lot A
Boldue Lake
To Grand Forks
3

Colt Resources Ltd. holds an option on mineral claim rights over a portion of Subdivision A, Lot 860. This property is being negotiated for on a land exchange basis to permit development of beach and picnic facilities at the southeast end of the lake. Acquisition of this property has been stalled indefinitely because titles cannot be registered until legal access is provided to the owner's (Mrs. W. Mather) other property north of adjacent Subdivision B. Colt Resources Ltd. is not prepared to agree to a quit claim over its claim on Subdivision A to permit the legal right-of-way.

Access to the south end of the recreational reserve is along a good paved, two-way road. From this point access conditions deteriorate to a rough single lane. The road through the reserve will require proper surveying and a plan for gazetting.

5. Demand

From indications of wear and tear within the recreational reserve, it is evident that Park facilities and maintenance are long overdue at Jewel Lake. Use figures are not available and there is no comparable Park within this part of the Region from which to base an estimate of demand. However, owners of the Jewel Lake Fishing Lodge cannot satisfy present camping and day use demands at their site and are strongly supportive of Provincial Park development on the lake to alleviate some of the use pressures.

There is obvious need for picnicking and swimming facilities in the Greenwood-Midway area based on the fact that opportunities for these activities are limited within reasonable day use distance of local residents. Jewel Lake offers the only suitable location to provide day use opportunities for the local population base.

6. Purpose of Master Plan

This Master Plan is intended to provide basic information and statement of objectives to guide development and management of a Park at Jewel Lake. Future reviews of the Plan will likely call for revisions to reflect park evolution and changing requirements brought about by greater public awareness and use of the lake.

B. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. Park Objectives

The initial goal is to provide the facility base and services for maintenance of a Park at current use levels.

In the longer term, the Parks Division will fulfill two primary regional objectives at Jewel Lake:

1.) Provision of lakeside day use facilities to serve recreation needs of local residents.

2.) Provision of facilities and services to promote high quality public enjoyment of natural recreational features and attractions of Jewel Lake and environs, with emphasis on destination/vacation oriented use. Recreational activities will include quality fishing, camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, hiking and nature study.

2. Management Philosophy

Emphasis for Park development and management must be directed toward maintaining a "natural environment experience". In the initial stage there will be minimal interruption to the informal nature of present use patterns. Visitor use controls will only be imposed where necessary to reduce environmental impacts.

C. PARK RESOURCES STATEMENT

The nature of the lake and its environs lends itself well to development of a quality Provincial Park.

1. Natural History

a.) Climate and Vegetation

Jewel Lake is situated in the interior dry belt zone. Temperatures rise rapidly in the spring and the weather stays generally warm and dry, with the exception of June which has records of a comparatively rainy regime. Through the summer, the days are hot and dry and the nights are cool. Snow sets in towards the end of November and is usually melted away by mid-April.

The vegetation is classified as semi-dry Douglas fir-Western larch type, characterized as mixed coniferous stands of Douglas fir, larch, lodgepole pine, Ponderosa pine, white pine, spruce, alpine fir, red cedar and hemlock with some deciduous components, primarily of birch and aspen. Large cottonwoods and heavy willow margins occur along the lakeshore and around the two marshes at the north end of the lake.

The south side of Mt. Roderick Dhu leads up from relatively dense valley bottom forests to open Ponderosa pine-Douglas fir and extensive grass slopes. By contrast, the slopes of Mt. Pelly on the south side of the lake are north facing and heavily timbered.

b.) Physiography

Jewel Lake is within the Southern Monashee Mountains Unit of the Columbia Mountains Physiographic Region (Youds, 1979). The setting typifies this Unit, and will meet some of the criteria for fulfilling the Natural History Objectives within the Region.

The lake is approximately 3 kilometres long and averages 1/3 kilometre across. Water levels are maintained by groundwater seepage. Jewel Creek outlet at the south end of the lake forms the outflo w. The lake warms to comfortable swimming temperatures by early July. The water is clear and of relatively good quality.

The mountain ridges run parallel on either side of the lake in a north-easterly direction. The steep slopes of Mt. Pelly on the south side rise uniformly from the water's edge at 1127 metres to an elevation of1550 metres. A series of slopes and intervening benches rise in steps to the top of Mt. Roderick Dhu, which is the dominant peak of the area at an elevation of 1830 metres. A short 30 metre rise at the north end of the lake forms a low pass into the drainage of the Granby River. The terrain at this end of the lake is relatively level.

The shoreline within the existing reserve is generally contoured by steep banks. The offshore tends to drop quickly to deep water.

c.) Fish and Wildlife

The diversified habitats of the proposed Park are well represented by the common and typical mammals and birds of the Kettle River highlands.

The mountains around Jewel Lake are important summer and fall range for mule deer. The south slopes are also used by mule deer during moderate winters.

The lake is reputed to have produced world record rainbows, however, except for pictures, there is no substantive proof to validate the truth of the stories. The present fishery is productive with rainbows averaging 1/2 to 1 kilogram. The creek outlet provides sufficient spawning habitat to maintain the excellent fishing opportunities.

2. Cultural History

Collapsed buildings, rail lines, mine shafts and sand tailings located on Subdivision A and the slopes above date back to mining work carried out prior to 1936 by Jewel Lake Gold Mines. These may have value for interpretation, however, in their present state there is some danger posed to the public.

There are no known archaeological sites in the Park.

D. ZONING

The whole of the Park will be zoned "Development" to reflect the emphasis on recreational use.

E. PARK MANAGEMENT

1. Resource Management

a.) Watersheds

The Park is partially situated in the Grand Forks watershed. Development will require approval from watershed controllers.

The Health Branch has recommended that mine tailings on Subdivision A be removed and placed in a safe landfill site and that the beach be developed using clean sand. Cyanide, sulphide minerals and other chemical reagents would likely contaminate the lake if the sand piles were levelled out. The Parks Division will ensure that development of Subdivision A follows the Health Branch recommendations.

b.) Land and Forests

Forest stands in the Park will be assessed for hazard potential prior to development. Measures may have to be taken prior to or during construction to reduce the hazard to acceptable levels.

There is some concern that milfoil could infest the lake. The Park will display information signs co-ordinated through the present province-wide program to prevent the spread of milfoil.

A fire contingency plan will be formulated.

c.) Wildlife and Fish

The Parks Division will ensure that development and use of the Park does not disturb fisheries values in the lake. The lake edge fringe, which is the critical feeding and rearing habitat for trout, must be protected.

Wildlife and fishery enhancement projects will be accommodated if compatible with recreational and resource management objectives for the Park.

2. Visitor Management

a.) Recreation

The initial primary concern at Jewel Lake is the provision of a much improved maintenance function with facilities and services relating to the nature and scale of present use levels. By controlling inappropriate vehicle use and designating campsites at the northeast end of the lake, it should be possible to curb unnecessary damage without interfering with public enjoyment of the site. Proper toilets, garbage facilities, tables, fireplaces and fire wood will assure basic amenities and further reduce recreational use impacts. In keeping with the proposed 8 kph restriction on the lake, the Parks Division will not develop a ramp on the lake and will only encourage the use of small car-top boats.

It would appear that park development on Subbt A has been effectively stymied for some indefinite period. There will continue to be no satisfactory public swimming area on the lake until this problem is resolved.

In the long term, the Park will be developed as a destination oriented facility offering opportunities for fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, boating and nature study.

b.) Implementation of Development Programs

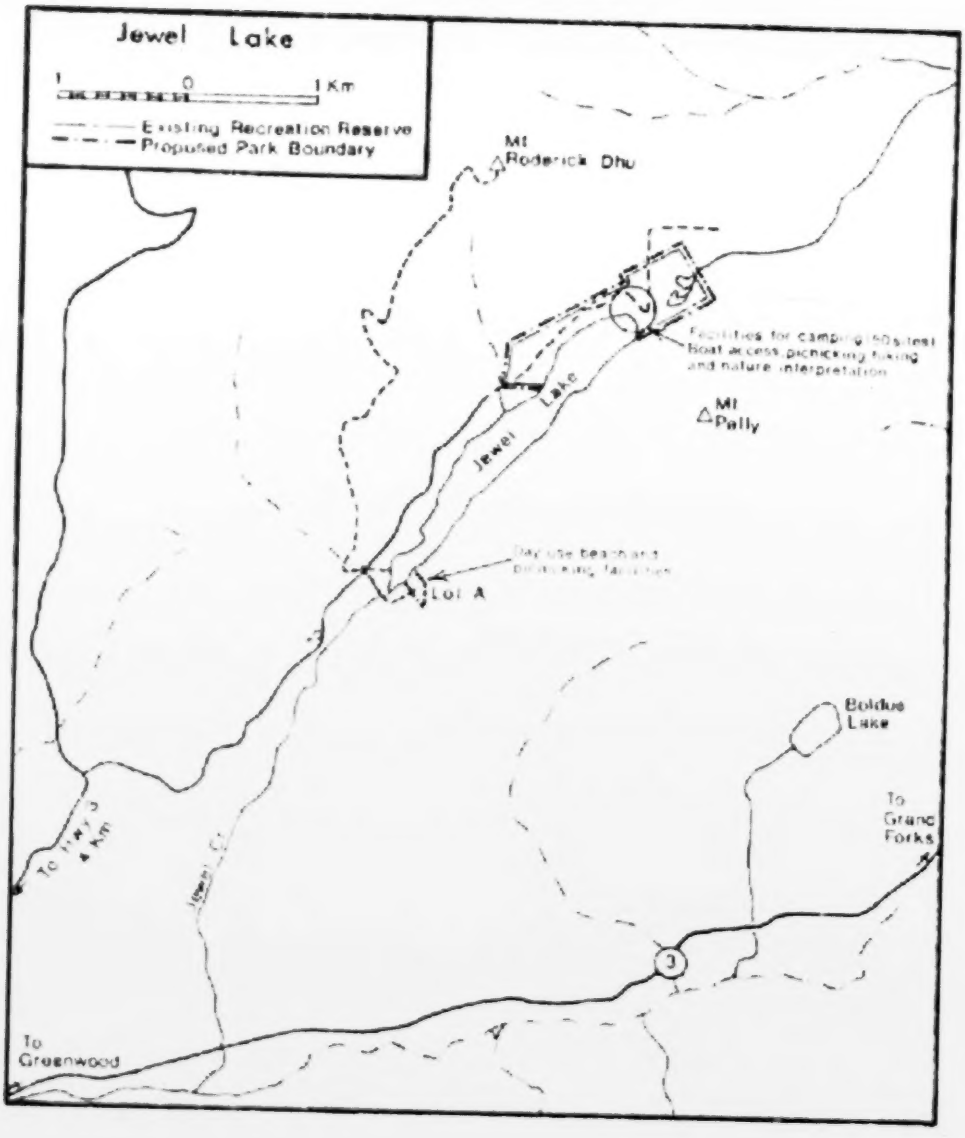
Initial development will be concentrated at the north end of the lake and will require:

(1) Retaining and designating the well used, durable sites as campsites.

(2) Designating parking spaces.

(3) Providing 25 Type II tables.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT



(4) Establishing pit toilets and wood-garbage corrals.

(5) Formalizing boat drop-off site.

(6) Providing well and hand pump.

(7) Improving road access to accommodate two way traffic.

The initial capital development program will be carried out in 1981, with $40,000 allotted.

Future development will establish an auto access campground on the northeast end of the lake. Facilities will be designed to provide for recreation in context and close association with the natural environment. The campground should have the appearance of being naturally immersed within the environs, with individual sites spaced to give the visitor some sense of privacy. Type II tables would be very much in keeping with the nature of the Park. The campground will consist of 50 sites.

A day use beach with picnic facilities will be given funding priority as soon as Subdivision A is transferred to Parks jurisdiction.

c.) Information and Interpretation

Information will be provided on a B-4-1 shelter to orient the visitor to the Park and its facilities, services and regulations, and to other activities and attractions available in the local area. The Park offers excellent natural history interpretive potential and should be considered in the future for development of a nature trail/self-guiding type of program. Consideration should also be given to interpretation of the old mine at the southeast end of the lake.

3. Administration

This Park will be administered by the West Kootenay Park District through the Sub-District Headquarters at Kettle River Recreation Area.